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# Contras See a Long-Term Need for Aid

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MIAMI, May 29 — Nicaraguan rebel leaders, formally announcing a unity accord, said today that they would seek continued assistance from the United States and elsewhere even if a regional peace treaty is signed by the nations of Central America.

The insurgent leaders, whose war against the Nicaraguan Government is backed by the Reagan Administration, argued that they have a right to fight on until it is proved that the terms of such a treaty are fully observed by the Sandinistas.

Speaking in a news conference here, the three co-leaders of the American-backed rebel front known as the United Nicaraguan Opposition, or UNO, said they had resolved strong internal political differences that had threatened to split their movement apart.

"In this moment UNO is in its most solid, firm position ever," Alfonso Robelo, one of the three co-leaders of the rebel front, said.

## Accusations of Corruption Denied

All three leaders also denied persistent assertions about corruption and other misdeeds, including drug trafficking, misappropriation of United States aid and violation of American arms-export controls on arms. The accusations are the subject of several Congressional investigations.

The three directors are Mr. Robelo, Adolfo Calero and Arturo Cruz. Mr. Calero is also head of the main rebel army, known as the Nicaraguan Democratic Force. Rebel leaders and their aides more fully defined the terms of the agreement to work together that they reached after months of bickering and almost three weeks of hard negotiations.

The rebel leaders said they would continue to press for a political settlement in Nicaragua but military pressure was needed to force a solution. As a result, they said, they would need some support for their forces even if Nicaragua agreed to sign the so-called Contadora regional peace treaty for Central America.

## Compliance Demanded

Mr. Calero said that rebel leaders would demand full compliance before agreeing to stop fighting. The peace proposal being discussed by Latin American governments calls for dismantling foreign military bases in Central America and for withdrawing foreign troops and military advisers. Still to be resolved are questions of arms control, foreign military maneuvers and verification of compliance with the pact.

Mr. Cruz said a three-man human rights commission would be created to investigate charges of abuses by rebel units. It would be made up of non-Nicaraguans whose findings would be binding on the rebel directorate, he said.

Before their talks here, Mr. Cruz and Mr. Robelo had asserted that Mr. Calero was monopolizing control of the rebel front. In an apparent effort to give Mr. Cruz and Mr. Robelo greater power, the agreement reached here will allow them to name officials to oversee rebel military, political, financial and international affairs, rebel sources said.

## Skepticism Remains

But even the same sources added that it remains to be shown whether the new officials will be allowed to exercise real authority. Such skepticism is an indication of the uneasiness of relations between the three top rebel leaders.

Some rebel sources said they remained concerned because under the new unity agreement, Mr. Calero retains control of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force army, which will continue as an independent political and military organization that forms part of the rebel front.

One reason Congressional critics of the rebels cite for resisting Administration efforts to provide millions of dollars in new financing to the guerrillas is their belief that Mr. Calero's Honduran-based army is still principally led by soldiers who served the Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza Debayle.

One rebel official said that to allay such concerns the commander of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force army, Col. Enrique Bermudez, had sent a written acknowledgement of his recognition of the United Nicaraguan Opposition's authority over his forces.

Mr. Robelo made a special point today of denying charges of corruption / and promised to assist any investigation needed to prove the rebels' innocence.

"We know we are clean," he said.

## A \$24 Million Lawsuit

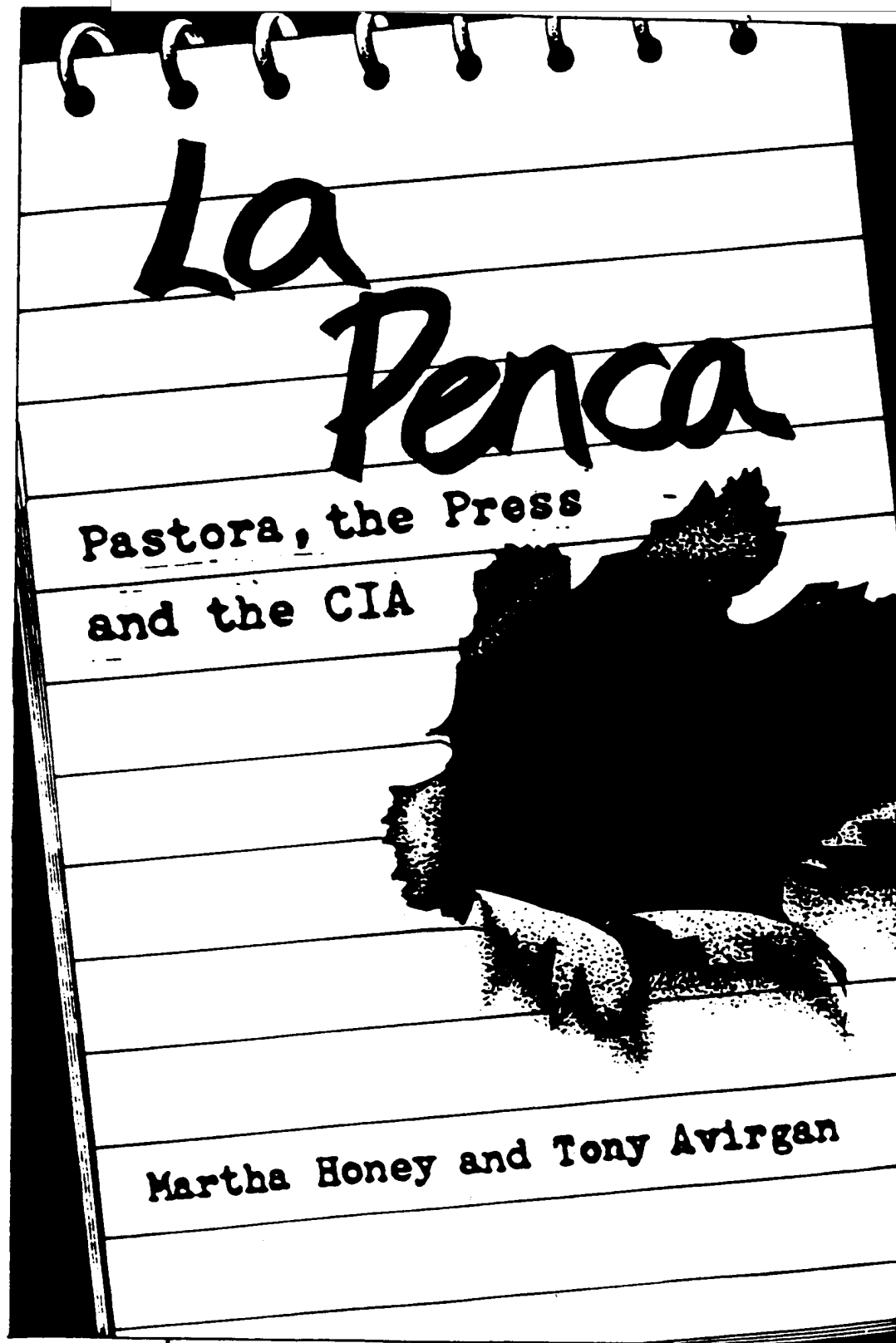
Shortly after Mr. Robelo spoke a lawyer stood up in the news conference and served Mr. Calero with a subpoena. Mr. Calero, the lawyer said, had been named in a \$24 million lawsuit filed in a Federal court in Miami by two American journalists in Costa Rica.

The suit accuses a group of 30 Americans and Nicaraguan rebels of smuggling cocaine to finance military operations against the Sandinistas. The plaintiffs are part-time correspondents, Tony Avirgan of National Public Radio and Martha Honey of ABC. They charge that a group of Nicaraguan rebels, Cuban-Americans and former Central Intelligence Agency officials were involved in drug-running in Costa

Rica, as well as plans to bomb the United States Embassy there, kill the American Ambassador and kill a rival Nicaraguan rebel leader, Edmundo Pastora Gomez.

Mr. Calero denied any involvement in such actions.

Mr. Avirgan was among 26 people, including Mr. Pastora, who were injured by a bomb that killed five others when it exploded at a 1984 news conference held by Mr. Pastora. The Committee to Protect Journalists had asked Mr. Avirgan and Miss Honey, who are husband and wife, to investigate the bombing. They said their lives were threatened repeatedly.



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**La Penca**  
**Pastora, the Press**  
**and the CIA**

**Martha Honey and Tony Avirgan**